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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1994, the General Assembly, by its resolution 49/64, took note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (A/49/490) and noted with appreciation the continued and increasing participation of OAU in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and its constructive contribution to that work. The Assembly also called upon the United Nations organs to continue to involve OAU closely in all their activities concerning Africa and to cooperate with OAU in the context of the pacific settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security in Africa, as provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations; endorsed the agreement reached between the organizations of the United Nations system and OAU on the convening of a meeting between the secretariats of those organizations, to be held in 1995 at Addis Ababa, to review and evaluate the progress made in implementing the proposals and recommendations agreed upon in September 1993 on cooperation between them in 1994-1995 and to adopt new and effective joint action; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the resolution and on the development of the cooperation between OAU and the organizations of the United Nations system.

II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

2. In a message to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly delivered on his behalf by the Foreign Minister of Tunisia on 3 October 1994, Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia and the then Chairman of OAU, stressed the need to deal with the fundamental issues which confront many African countries, namely, political reforms and the modernization of the economy under conditions of security and stability.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations met on 7 April 1995 with members of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution. They exchanged views on the conflict situations in Africa and discussed actions that could be considered to ameliorate them. The Secretary-General also met the current Chairman of OAU, President Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, and the Secretary-General of OAU, at Addis Ababa on 17 July 1995. He discussed with them the situation in Africa and the importance of cooperation between the two organizations in efforts to bring about lasting peace and sustainable development in the region.

III. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat

4. The Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat maintained and strengthened its contacts and cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in various areas. In 1993-1994, the Centre gave a grant to the

Commission to enable it to reinforce its office of information and documentation, to organize seminars and training courses on human rights and to hire the staff and acquire the facilities required for the accomplishment of its mandate. Moreover, under its human rights advisory services programme, the Centre helped the Commission to implement its programme of activities for 1993-1995.

5. In October 1993, the Centre organized at Geneva and Bordeaux a training course on information techniques in the field of human rights in cooperation with the Institut Raoul Wallenberg and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation. Nineteen participants including 13 from Africa were selected to attend this course. In June 1994, the Centre organized a regional seminar on techniques for drafting and presenting the periodic reports which States parties to human rights conventions are required to submit to the committees established under those conventions. That seminar involved 14 French-speaking African countries which were experiencing difficulties in drafting and submitting their reports. Seven of the 26 training fellowships awarded by the Centre under the 1993 fellowship programme were allocated to Africa. In addition, 15 fellowships were awarded to African candidates for training and refresher training in the field of human rights in 1994.

6. Under its advisory services and technical assistance programme, the Centre dispatched an advisory mission to Ethiopia in 1994 to make specific recommendations to assist the Special Prosecutor responsible for investigating cases of persons accused of human rights violations under the former regime. It was also involved in electoral assistance to several African countries.

B. United Nations Children's Fund

7. In January 1995, representatives of 45 African countries attended a three-day conference at Tunis organized by OAU on the mid-decade and decade goals for child survival, development and protection. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) collaborated with the host Government and the OAU secretariat in designing the substance of the meeting. Similar UNICEF support was provided for the OAU conference on youth and development planned for 1995. UNICEF collaboration with OAU has also focused on the promotion of humanitarian diplomacy, with emphasis on advocacy for children's rights and conflict resolution in the emergency-affected countries of eastern Africa.

8. On 16 June 1995, Heads of State, First Ladies, ministers of youth and other high-ranking government officials participated in educational, cultural and sporting events throughout Africa to mark the Day of the African Child. OAU and UNICEF played key roles by co-sponsoring this event, particularly at United Nations Headquarters in New York. At the request of OAU, UNICEF also prepared a paper for the meeting of African Ministers of Health that was held at Cairo in April 1995.

9. In advance of the sixty-second ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU and the thirty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held at Addis Ababa in June 1995, UNICEF provided technical support to the OAU secretariat in the preparation of the report of the OAU

Secretary-General on the mid-decade goals emanating from the Consensus of Dakar, requested by the Council at its sixtieth session, held at Tunis in 1994. It also assisted in preparing the draft resolution on that question that was submitted to the Council of Ministers at its sixty-second session, adopted by it (CM/Res.1599 (LXII)) and subsequently endorsed by the Assembly. During the session, the UNICEF delegation was able to assist the OAU secretariat and delegations in their consideration of the question, including, specifically, the drafting of an amendment dealing with the 20/20 concept that was incorporated in the final version. Earlier, national delegations had been briefed in their countries on the resolution, and on other issues concerning children and women that were expected to be addressed at Addis Ababa.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

10. The work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in the implementation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community has been carried out in the following areas: currency convertibility, harmonization of policies, rationalization of existing integration organs and transport.

11. UNCTAD has had regular consultations with OAU during 1994-1995, particularly with regard to the preparation of a cooperation agreement and the preparation of the UNCTAD contribution to the Second Afro-Arab Trade Fair, which is to be held at Johannesburg in October 1995. At the request of OAU, the Government of Egypt and the League of Arab States, the UNCTAD secretariat also organized a round-table meeting on trade, economic cooperation and investment between African and Arab countries for both the African and Arab public and private business sectors.

12. The UNCTAD secretariat has continued to provide the OAU secretariat with its studies, in particular on commodity price risk management. The UNCTAD secretariat has also cooperated with OAU in striving to achieve the objectives of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. UNCTAD, as coordinator of the subsectoral working group on shipping, ports and multimodal transport, has been very active in technical assistance projects in these subsectors.

D. United Nations Development Programme

13. Under the fifth cycle which began in 1992, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to extend support for strengthening the OAU secretariat through capacity-building and management development, together with the establishment of the African Economic Community and the establishment of a Women in Development Unit in OAU.

14. The specific projects implemented were: improvement of administrative and managerial capabilities of OAU (RAF/87/101; UNDP input: US$ 4.1 million); preparatory assistance for the establishment of a Women In Development Unit in OAU (RAF/94/004; financial inputs by UNIFEM and UNDP are respectively US$ 64,410 and US$ 80,000); and promotion of Africa's economic cooperation and integration

through the establishment of the African Economic Community (RAF/94/008). The latter programme promotes collaboration among OAU, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (ADB), all three forming the joint secretariat which receives support.

E. United Nations Environment Programme

15. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) participated actively with OAU, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), ECA and ADB in the joint secretariat, on questions relating to Africa and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; in the substantial input of OAU to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; and in the OAU ad hoc group of experts. In October 1994, UNEP, together with OAU and ECA, and under the auspices of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, convened a ministerial session to discuss the African common position on the Convention on Biological Diversity.

16. The fifth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment accorded particular importance to the Rio Statement of Principles on forests. As a follow-up, UNEP, OAU and ECA have initiated plans, within the framework of the Conference Committee on Forest and Woodlands, to facilitate the active participation of African countries in the regional consultations envisaged and relating to the Statement of Principles. A project was implemented in 1993 for the primary purpose of contributing towards the strengthening of the institutional capacities of OAU to deal with current and emerging environmental management issues.

17. At the request of OAU, UNEP is co-sponsoring the OAU Pan-African conference on youth and development, on the theme "African youth in the 1990s and beyond: peace, participation and development", planned for 1995, which will be an important forum for reviewing the role of major groups like youth in the implementation of inter- and intra-African commitments on the environment, such as the African common position on environment and development, and global agendas for action, including the Rio Conference agreements.

F. United Nations Population Fund

18. The main channel for the collaboration of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with OAU has continued to be through the UNFPA-funded project, support to population and development activities of OAU (RAF/91/P11). Substantial progress has been made in the reporting period in achieving the immediate objectives of the project: a Population and Development Unit was set up at OAU with staff funded by UNFPA, while an African Population Commission was inaugurated in May 1994. The training elements of the project include workshops, symposia, attendance at conferences and study tours within and outside the continent for a cross-section of the constituent members of the African Population Commission.

19. The research agenda being developed will assist OAU in taking account of the linkages between population and development, and there are already discussions within OAU regarding research activities on the impact/role of population in the area of peace, security and democracy; on refugees and displaced persons; and on the situation of African women and children. Brochures and newsletters on African population continue to be issued and, from 1995, will be translated into the official languages of OAU. Representatives of OAU, ADB, the country support team at Addis Ababa and the local UNFPA office have constituted the Project Steering Committee. Meetings are held quarterly to assess the implementation of the project.

G. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

20. In November 1993, a United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) delegation met with OAU at Addis Ababa and discussed issues pertaining to cooperation in drug control. It was agreed that OAU and UNDCP should take further steps to develop cooperation within a defined and agreed legal framework.

21. This contact resulted in an agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding between OAU and UNDCP which provides for a regular exchange of information, provision to OAU of drug control reference material, joint participation in drug control events, sharing of expertise and specific activities to be determined. Following the signing of the Memorandum in September 1994, UNDCP approved a specific project to provide a survey on drug abuse among African youth for the OAU Pan-African conference on youth and development, planned for 1995. Under the same project, UNDCP also undertook to assist in the elaboration of the OAU action plan for drug control in Africa in response to the request of the Council of Ministers at its fifty-eighth session, held at Cairo in 1993. Such joint undertakings have constituted the initial and promising stage of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

22. The OAU secretariat has been invited to participate in UNDCP-sponsored technical meetings in Africa with a view to developing a common understanding of the drug problems in the region and a spirit of partnership to deal with them. OAU participated in the meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies in Africa, held at Addis Ababa in 1994. More recently, it attended the forum for drug demand reduction at Yaoundé, during which western and central African experts shared experiences in this field and identified elements of an appropriate strategy for future actions.

H. World Food Programme

23. In 1994, the operational expenditures of the World Food Programme (WFP) amounted to US$ 872 million in OAU member States. Projects worth $727 million were approved in support of humanitarian and development activities in African countries. The highest priority was given to sub-Saharan African countries, which received 60 per cent of total WFP assistance during the year. Humanitarian assistance provided by WFP to OAU member States in 1994 exceeded $616 million, $321 million of which was channelled towards helping the victims

of both natural disasters and armed conflicts. The sum of $109 million was provided to areas stricken by drought or crop failure, and resources amounting to $186 million were provided to protracted refugee and displaced person operations.

24. In addition to the high level of relief activities which the Programme was called upon to support in Africa in 1994, WFP maintained its development assistance to the region. This assistance was channelled in accordance with priority sectors identified by OAU. Assistance to human resources development totalled $64 million, and included school feeding at the primary and secondary levels, technical and vocational training and institutional feeding in social centres. Increased attention continued to be given to mitigating the negative effects of structural adjustment on the very poor. A total of $47 million was spent in support of rural development activities throughout Africa, and an additional $145 million was channelled to OAU member States from WFP extrabudgetary resources.

25. WFP also supported OAU member States in the following areas: it purchased food commodities worth $121 million, an increase of 66 per cent over the previous year in the region, thus contributing to the development of intra-African trade; various non-food items, including trucks, warehouses and kitchen equipment, were provided to the region in order to ensure efficient implementation of WFP-assisted projects; resources were provided to least developed countries to reduce the burden of project implementation by meeting part of the costs of internal transport, storage and handling of commodities supplied by WFP; and over 2,241 counterpart staff from the region were trained in various fields, such as project identification and implementation, monitoring, reporting and food storage.

I. Economic Commission for Africa

26. In January/February 1994, the joint OAU/Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)/ADB secretariat identified two areas of immediate action to make the African Economic Community operational: the formulation of the initial work programme of the Community and the mobilization of resources to support its operational activities. To facilitate such action, the joint secretariat considered that the work programme required harmonization with those of the regional economic communities, and consequently fielded missions in March/April 1994 to those communities whose reports provided ample information on the stage reached by each in various sectors. Those reports were consolidated into a single report, which was submitted in August 1994 to the meeting of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee held at expert level. The basic elements of the work programme of the African Economic Community are now in place and, subject to adequate funding being secured, the implementation of some components could start.

27. In February 1994, the joint secretariat decided to set up a Resource Mobilization Committee which would recommend to it measures aimed at obtaining the financial resources required to support the operational activities of the African Economic Community. ECA agreed to carry out a study on alternative solutions to the assessed contributions of member States, which are increasingly

difficult to collect. The joint secretariat also prepared a programme support document which was submitted to UNDP in December 1994 for funding. UNDP financing will supplement the support already lent to the African Economic Community by ADB and ECA.

28. ECA and OAU prepared joint papers for and serviced the African Group's preparatory meetings for and during the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo in 1994. The first meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration was organized by ECA in 1994, in which OAU actively participated. The two institutions continue to cooperate in the follow-up to that Declaration and the Programme of Action of the Cairo Conference and plan to organize a meeting of experts and non-governmental organizations at Abidjan during 1995. ECA also participated in two meetings on population which were organized in 1994 by OAU - the first meeting of the African Population Commission and the Seminar of Ambassadors on Population Issues.

29. ECA worked closely with OAU and undertook several major joint activities, notably, preparation of the African common position on human and social development in Africa, which was presented at the World Summit for Social Development (1995); preparation of a national seminar on youth, drugs and health in Ethiopia (1994); organization of the ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of Economic and Social Changes on the African Family (1993); and the session of the OAU Labour Commission.

30. OAU is involved in all major activities organized by ECA, especially in meetings of the intergovernmental experts (1993) and the preparations for the African Conference on Science and Technology (1995). Similarly, ECA is on the panel of judges on African inventors organized by OAU. In 1993, ECA organized the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Minerals in which OAU participated. Joint activities are also undertaken in the follow-up to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. ECA provided technical support to the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing, which is based at Algiers, and to the African Regional Centre for Technology at Dakar.

31. The joint OAU/ECA/ADB secretariat of the Ministerial Contact Group on Africa's external indebtedness organized a meeting of the Group at Tunis in 1994. The joint OAU/ECA/ADB/African Centre for Monetary Studies secretariat of the enlarged Libreville Committee on the establishment of the African Monetary Fund organized a meeting of the Committee at Libreville, also in 1994. ECA organized an international conference on the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and African economies, in which OAU participated, at Tunis in 1994.

32. In 1994, ECA and OAU organized jointly the meeting of member States on the Common African Agricultural Programme and a meeting on under-exploited/ non-conventional food resources in Africa was organized by OAU with support from ECA and FAO. Within the framework of the joint OAU/ECA/UNIDO secretariat to the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, a session of the Conference was organized in Mauritius in 1993 on the implementation of the Second Industrial Development Decade in Africa. ECA also contributed to the preparation of the protocol on industry to the Abuja Treaty.

J. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

33. In March 1994, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in collaboration with OAU and ECA, convened a meeting of African Ministers responsible for human settlements at Habitat headquarters at Nairobi, to develop strategies and mechanisms which would enable African countries to participate effectively in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

34. A regional technical cooperation project was signed by Habitat and OAU to facilitate the mobilization of support and resources for African regional programmes within the framework of the human settlements programme of Agenda 21. The first phase of the project was completed at the end of October 1994. The project itself entered the implementation stage on 1 December 1994, with periodic monitoring and evaluation provided jointly by Habitat and OAU.

35. Habitat, in association with the World Bank and with core-sponsorship from UNDP, is implementing a 10-year (1986-1996) urban management programme designed to strengthen the contribution that cities and towns in developing countries make towards human development, including economic growth, social development and the reduction of poverty. The programme's activities in sub-Saharan Africa and northern Africa are being developed and supported through its regional offices at Accra and Cairo, respectively, with decentralization as a core theme. In the northern African Arab States, the programme has added a component on urban heritage, and regional initiatives have been planned for exchanging experience on municipal solid waste management. In eastern and southern Africa a research project on urban poverty has been implemented with financial support from the Ford Foundation.

K. International Labour Organization

36. Through its liaison office at Addis Ababa and the East Africa Multidisciplinary Advisory Team, also located at Addis Ababa, the International Labour Organization (ILO) continued to maintain close working relations with OAU and its secretariat, mainly with respect to the organization of relevant expert meetings and the annual session of the OAU Labour Commission. As in the past, ILO also continued to provide technical and financial support for capacity-building and training programmes carried out under the auspices of OAU. The ILO Employers' and Workers' Relations Bureaux at Geneva and its Regional Office for Africa, at Abidjan, continued to maintain close relationships with, and to provide support for, the OAU-sponsored employers and workers organizations at the continental level, namely, the Pan-African Employers Confederation and the Organization of African Trade Union Unity.

37. ILO assisted OAU in preparing ad hoc technical papers for the officials meeting and special reports for the seventeenth ordinary session of the OAU Labour Commission, held in 1994, on employment and related issues. It financed and coordinated the preparation of five background technical papers - one case-study for each of the five OAU subregions for the meeting of experts on international labour migration in Africa in 1995. Financial assistance and advisory services were provided by ILO to OAU in 1994 towards the organization of the Pan-African Youth Congress (1995). ILO financial and technical

assistance has been made available to OAU for the preparation of the OAU/ILO Regional Tripartite Meeting on Labour and Social Issues in Export Processing Zones/Multinational Enterprises (1995). ILO inputs included technical background papers, fellowships for participants and the services of specialists.

38. ILO provided support for and participated fully in the OAU workshop on post-conflict demobilization in Africa, held at Kampala in November 1994, and, as a follow-up, agreed to collaborate with OAU in organizing a meeting on the training and employment of ex-combatants.

39. OAU participated in the fourth Biennial Meeting of African Employment Planners, held at Accra in December 1994 on the basis of financial assistance provided by ILO. At the request of OAU, ILO prepared a paper on child labour in Africa, which was initially presented at the sixteenth session of the OAU Labour Commission in 1993. Later, the document served as the basis of further OAU/ILO collaboration on policies and programmes directed towards the elimination of child labour. ILO continued to work closely with OAU in the implementation of the activities of the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour in the Africa region.

40. Since late 1993, ILO has been involved in preparatory work for the fifth Conference of African Ministers of Health (1995). In addition, ILO has provided both material and technical support to various regional and subregional institutions sponsored by OAU in the areas of vocational rehabilitation and training, occupation safety and health and social security.

L. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

41. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to provide technical support to OAU during 1993-1994 within the framework of the development of a Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP) as an operational tool of the African Economic Community. FAO contributed to the organization of an inter-agency meeting on CAAP and an intergovernmental meeting of experts on CAAP, both held at Addis Ababa in March/April 1994. FAO also cooperated with OAU on the development of a strategy on underutilized food resources, as well as a regional nutrition strategy for Africa. The eighteenth session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, held at Gaborone in October 1994, endorsed the principles and strategies of the Framework for a Common African Agricultural Programme.

42. FAO contributed towards the strengthening of subregional economic communities and their integration programmes by assisting in the conversion of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States into a Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. FAO assisted in the development of a Common Agricultural Policy and Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa and a food security strategy for the subregion and also contributed to the finalization of an OAU draft protocol on food and agriculture in accordance with article 47 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community.

43. The Organization has provided technical assistance to OAU for the Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC). Since August 1992, PANVAC has

operated largely on funds provided by the FAO technical cooperation programme, although some support has also come from UNDP and the European Community. A new three-year project, on strengthening veterinary vaccine production and quality control in Africa, is being executed by FAO with EC funding. FAO activities in crop protection have focused on the promotion and strengthening of technical cooperation among African countries in the monitoring and control of major pests, diseases and weeds of regional importance. FAO continued to cooperate with the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, an OAU organization.

44. FAO cooperation with OAU is also reflected in the Coordinated Multi-donor Programme for Tick and Tick-borne Disease Control in eastern, central and southern Africa. OAU has participated in the programme's annual meetings where progress is discussed and has actively collaborated in the setting up of quality control standards for tick-borne diseases in Africa.

45. FAO is a serving member of the Executive Committee of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC), which is the OAU/IBAR (Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources) body with responsibility for convening the biennial international meeting and for addressing technical aspects of control. The twenty-second meeting of the Executive Committee was held at Kampala in October 1993, with the active participation of FAO. OAU/IBAR was invited to attend FAO statutory meetings relating to the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, the most recent of these being the meeting of the regional liaison officers (East Africa) held at Nairobi in 1993.

M. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

46. The Secretary-General of OAU participated in Audience Africa, held at UNESCO headquarters in February 1995 and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) participated in the meetings of the governing bodies of OAU. UNESCO was represented at a number of meetings on education organized by OAU, including the first subregional conference of Ministers of Education, held in the Sudan. UNESCO also supported the implementation of projects related to the work of the OAU Ministerial Council on Education, Culture and Development, notably in the area of education for girls.

47. UNESCO is assisting in the preparation of a protocol concerning education, training and culture to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community. OAU participated in the first session of the Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in the Field of Education of Africa, held at Dakar in March 1994, which also served as a regional preparatory meeting for the forty-fourth session of the International Conference on Education. OAU was represented at the latter session, which was held at Geneva in October 1994.

48. UNESCO supported OAU activities through its Regional Office for Science and Technology for Africa at Nairobi. This support took the form of cooperation with the OAU Scientific, Technical and Research Commission at Lagos. In 1993-1994, the Office made a financial contribution to the Commission and helped to implement the OAU programme on the use of new and renewable sources of

energy, including solar energy, in Africa. The two organizations have also cooperated in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the follow-up to the Regional Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development in Africa (CASTAFRICA). OAU and UNESCO continued to provide moral and material support to the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions, which is based at Regional Office headquarters. Since UNDP discontinued its assistance to the project, the Network has received most of its resources from UNESCO. The Regional Office participated in the first meeting of the OAU Inter-African Scientific Council (April 1994), and OAU is a member of the Board of the International Fund for the Technological Development of Africa, established in February 1994.

49. The two organizations have continued to cooperate in launching and implementing the Dakar Plan of Action, relating to the development of cultural industries in Africa. In particular, UNESCO provided a financial contribution for a sectoral study on potential cultural industries in West African countries. Moreover, UNESCO provided an intellectual and financial contribution for the organization of the OAU Conference of Ministers of Education and Culture, held at Cotonou, Benin, in 1993.

50. In collaboration with OAU and ECA, UNESCO organized an international symposium on the definition of new strategies to promote African languages in a multilingual context, held at Addis Ababa in November 1994. UNESCO donated a set of publications in African languages to OAU; an exhibition of these works was held in January 1995. Following up the Dakar Plan of Action, OAU participated in a pan-African symposium on the living and working conditions of artists, held at Brazzaville in July 1994.

51. On various occasions, OAU has expressed an interest in the historical study of the causes and modalities of the slave trade and the analysis of the cultural interactions it generated. Following the project's inauguration at Ouidah, Benin, in September 1994, it was decided that OAU should be closely associated with all of the project activities. Consequently, OAU was represented at a joint World Tourism Organization (WTO)/UNESCO meeting at Accra, on cultural tourism along the slave route. In addition, WTO invited OAU to participate in the Committee of African Ministers of Tourism, which adopted the programme of tourism along the slave route at its session held at Durban in April/May 1995. UNESCO participated in the seventh session of the Conference of African Ministers for Information, which took place at Sun City, South Africa, in October 1994.

52. Since February 1993, UNESCO has cooperated with OAU in reorganizing and strengthening the Pan African News Agency (PANA) by seconding a staff member to act as General Coordinator of PANA and by providing a financial contribution of US$ 10,000. The reorganization plan was drawn up by UNESCO and adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU at its twenty-eighth session, held at Dakar in July 1992.

N. World Health Organization

53. The World Health Organization (WHO) Working Group on Continental Africa was established in March 1994 to facilitate the contribution of WHO to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. WHO also assisted OAU in formulating a draft health protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, which will provide an important framework for health and development in Africa as a whole. WHO, in collaboration with OAU, is playing an important role in the implementation of the Africa 2000 initiative for water supply and sanitation, requested by the Regional Committee for Africa in September 1993.

54. A WHO delegation headed by the Director-General attended the thirtieth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU (Tunis, June 1994), at which the Assembly adopted a Declaration on AIDS and the Child in Africa. Building on the Dakar Declaration on AIDS in Africa (1992), the Tunis Declaration was based on a background document prepared by WHO and reviewed by OAU Ministers of Health at an extraordinary session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health held during the forty-seventh World Health Assembly.

55. Recommendations were provided by WHO on the OAU medical clinic serving some 3,000 people at Addis Ababa and on the health information needs of the OAU secretariat. WHO participated actively in the preparation of the Fifth Conference of African Ministers of Health, which was held at Cairo in April 1995, by identifying the following major objectives for the Conference: to update and reaffirm the rationale for putting health at the centre of national development in accordance with the Declaration on Health as a Foundation for Development (July 1987); to emphasize the important policy implementations of women's health for national development; and to identify, within national development plans, areas of action critical for family health for consideration by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU at its 1995 session.

O. World Bank/International Finance Corporation

56. The World Bank has a representative to OAU, based at the Bank's Resident Mission at Addis Ababa, who attends all OAU meetings, meets OAU officials on issues of mutual concern and ensures the open flow of communication between the two organizations. In addition, World Bank officials from headquarters regularly visit OAU for consultations with officials and attend meetings.

57. The Bank also supports operational cooperation with OAU via the African Capacity-Building Foundation, of which the Bank is a co-sponsor. The Foundation has supported establishment of an economic policy analysis support unit within the OAU secretariat to enhance macroeconomic policy analysis capabilities, especially with respect to policies of regional integration. The Bank has sought to recruit nationals from member countries at levels of policy decision-making. In future, the World Bank will be increasing the role of field staff relative to headquarters, and the consequent expansion of capacity in the Bank's resident missions in Africa will be largely derived from the hiring of qualified local professionals.

P. International Monetary Fund

58. The International Monetary Fund continued to cooperate with OAU through its member States that are also Fund members and with the United Nations through contacts between the Director of the Fund's Office at the United Nations (who is also the Special Representative of the Fund at the United Nations) and the OAU Steering Committee in relation to Africa's Priority Programme. The main vehicles for cooperation include financial assistance, external debt and aid coordination, policy advice, surveillance and technical assistance.

59. The Fund continued to provide its own financial resources under its different facilities, especially under the structural adjustment facility/enhanced structural adjustment facility, to African countries in support of their structural adjustment programmes. As at the end of February 1995, there were 26 programmes in place in various African countries. These included nine stand-by arrangements; two arrangements under the extended fund facility; and 15 arrangements under the structural adjustment and enhanced structural adjustment facilities. In addition, there is a rights accumulation programme in place. Total Fund credit and loans outstanding to OAU member countries amounted to SDR 6.66 billion at the end of 1994. The Fund, in its catalytic role, further continued to mobilize additional resources for the African countries in the context of multilateral conferences on aid coordination (e.g., consultative group meetings and UNDP-sponsored round-table discussions) as well as debt rescheduling.

60. The Fund exercised its policy advice and surveillance functions through its regular consultations with OAU member States and by helping those countries design adjustment programmes that could be supported by the Fund. It also continued to collaborate actively with regional organizations in Africa, and to provide extensive technical assistance for the effective management of policy reforms in many areas, including public finance, monetary policy, debt management and exchange rate management, as well as in the design of social safety nets. It offered training, both at headquarters and in the field, in financial analysis, public finance and the balance of payments.

Q. International Fund for Agricultural Development

61. By the end of 1994, assistance of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the African continent under the regular programme amounted to SDR 1,233.5 million (US$ 1,541 million) in loans and grants for 165 projects in 49 countries; of the total project costs of $5,530.4 million, IFAD contributed 27.8 per cent.* In addition, under its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, IFAD provided by the end of 1994 SDR 275.88 million ($364.3 million) for 29 projects

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* Assistance refers to loans for projects (SDR 1,227.4 million, or $1,533.8 million) and grants for projects (SDR 6.1 million or $7.2 million). The 165 projects include 8 which were financed from both the regular and special resources for sub-Saharan Africa. The latter amounted to SDR 36 million ($48.1 million) which is included in the total project cost.

in 19 countries, including grants for projects of SDR 7.29 million ($9.12 million). Under the regular and special programme combined, sub-Saharan Africa received SDR 89.3 million ($129.6 million) in assistance in 1994 for 13 projects in 14 countries. Of the total project costs of $244.8 million, IFAD contributed 53 per cent.

62. Through its technical assistance grant programme support for agricultural research and training in Africa, IFAD continues to focus on improving the technical basis for its investment portfolio. Two IFAD grants through the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) are financing research conducted by national agricultural research systems within the Alley Farming Network for Tropical Africa, coordinated and supported by IITA, the International Livestock Centre for Africa and the International Council for Research in Agroforestry.

63. During 1993/94, the Agricultural Management Training Programme for Africa collaborating agencies (OAU Scientific, Technical and Research Commission, ADB, IFAD and World Bank) made concerted efforts to design a second phase of the programme, aimed at internalizing and institutionalizing the approach and putting its long-term implementation and replication on a sustainable basis. On this basis, all countries in the region would eventually participate in the programme which would become a standing feature of the curriculum of national training institutions and be included in the training programmes of all agricultural and rural investment projects.

R. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

64. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) cooperated with OAU and ECA in the organization of the eleventh Conference of African Ministers of Industry held at Port Louis in May/June 1993 and the preceding meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa. Apart from helping to prepare the African common position, UNIDO cooperated with OAU in ensuring effective African participation at the fifth session of the General Conference of UNIDO held at Yaoundé, in December 1993. OAU attended the thirteenth session of the Industrial Development Board, held at Vienna in November 1994, and UNIDO participated in the meetings of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU held during the reporting period.

65. Within the framework of the African Economic Community, apart from making substantive contributions to the preparation of the protocol on industrial cooperation to the Abuja Treaty, as well as that on technology and energy, UNIDO continued to cooperate with OAU in identifying areas of industrial cooperation among member States and intergovernmental organizations. Following the adoption of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992, the Joint Committee of OAU, ECA and UNIDO on the implementation of the programme has continued to meet to review the progress made in its implementation.

66. Given the important roles which OAU, ECA and ADB have been playing, in concert with UNIDO, in promoting the industrialization of Africa, the Director-

General of UNIDO had initiated consultations with the three organizations with a view to identifying ways to reach a common and coordinated approach in their joint efforts to assist African countries to meet the future challenges. A meeting of technical experts of OAU, ECA, ADB and UNIDO was held at Vienna in November 1994 and recommended a memorandum to the heads of the four organizations. A meeting of private sector experts on the industrialization of Africa was held at Abidjan in January 1995 and helped lay the foundation for a private sector forum, held at Gaborone in June 1995 with a view to enhancing the participation of the private sector in the industrialization of Africa.

67. UNIDO participated in the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at Addis Ababa in November 1993, which was jointly organized by OAU, ECA and UNEP, and at which the UNIDO agenda for a "better world with clean industry", in particular its programme for ecologically sustainable industrial development, was presented to the Ministers. As a follow-up to that Conference, UNIDO is intensifying its cooperation with OAU, ECA, UNEP and the Conference secretariat in initiating a programme in response to the issues delineated in Agenda 21.

68. UNIDO prepared and presented a background paper on the utilization of sorghum in malt and beer processing at the Regional Symposium on Progress in the Processing and Utilization of Sorghum and Related Cereals, held at Ouagadougou in November 1993, which was organized by the OAU Scientific, Technical and Research Commission. The UNIDO paper contributed to the recommendations of the Symposium on measures to enhance self-sufficiency in food production in Africa.

S. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

69. The underlying objective of the cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and OAU has been to promote legal arrangements, policies, practices and other actions for the more effective provision of protection and assistance to refugees in Africa and for the identification of solutions to their plight. In legal terms, the culmination of the efforts of the two organizations in this respect is the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, which was elaborated with the assistance of UNHCR and adopted in September 1969.

70. Towards the end of 1993, UNHCR and OAU started to collaborate in organizing the OAU/UNHCR Symposium on Refugees and Forced Population Movements which was held at Addis Ababa in September 1994. The Symposium adopted, inter alia, a series of recommendations on the root causes of refugee flows and other forced population movements; assistance to refugees; internally displaced persons; solutions for refugees; other populations in need of humanitarian assistance; emergency preparedness and response; the relationship between humanitarian assistance and socio-economic development; and issues relating to institutional reform. UNHCR and OAU are following up the implementation of the recommendations.

71. The convening of the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, which was held at Bujumbura in February 1995, was called for by the Council of Ministers of OAU at its sixtieth ordinary session and endorsed by the General Assembly in its

resolution 49/7. The Conference addressed a wide range of issues concerning refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes region and adopted a Plan of Action covering such matters as the security and protection of those groups of persons; refugee repatriation; international solidarity and burden-sharing; addressing the root causes of displacement; financial and material resources; and strengthening the social, economic and environmental infrastructures of the host countries. UNHCR and OAU are currently cooperating in promoting the implementation of the Plan of Action.

72. UNHCR has committed itself to supporting, in appropriate ways, the conflict resolution activities of OAU and the accompanying mechanisms are being developed or strengthened within the OAU secretariat. Already, the two organizations are systematically sharing information on problems and issues that cut across their respective mandates. UNHCR has also indicated its readiness to participate in an appropriate way in the regional activities of OAU in the social and economic fields, with particular reference to their implications for the effective execution of the responsibilities of the office in Africa.

IV. COOPERATION IN OTHER AREAS

A. Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

Conflict prevention and peacemaking

73. In accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations and OAU consult regularly on key African questions with a view to coordinating initiatives and actions on a broad spectrum of political issues, including the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa. In recent years, the two organizations have cooperated on initiatives to prevent or resolve conflicts in many African countries, including Burundi, Lesotho, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and South Africa. They have also cooperated in the implementation of peace processes in several African countries where the United Nations has undertaken peace-keeping operations. Examples include Angola, Mozambique and Somalia.

74. In his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace", the Secretary-General drew attention to the untapped potential of regional organizations like OAU in working for peace and in the Supplement to that report offered to help OAU and other regional organizations develop a capacity for preventive action, peacemaking and, where appropriate, peace-keeping. In order to exchange views on this matter and to consider how the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations can be adapted to the changing world situation, he convened in New York in August 1994 a meeting with the heads of several regional arrangements and organizations, including OAU.

75. The key to closer cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and OAU in preventive diplomacy lies in a structured and constant exchange of information on emerging crises at a sufficiently early stage. Efforts are being made to help build the institutional capacity of the OAU secretariat in these areas. Consideration is also being given to assisting OAU in the establishment

of an early-warning capability by providing technical assistance, including staff exchanges, to enhance its capability to collect and disseminate information, as well as to monitor political developments in Africa.

76. The two organizations have exchanged views on how the United Nations could help mobilize financial and logistic support to specific peacemaking activities of OAU and for the development of training programmes on the settlement of disputes. Similarly, arrangements are being made to involve OAU in devising and implementing programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction in post-conflict peace-building efforts in Africa, as well as those that address the needs of refugees, displaced persons, demobilized combatants and others affected by conflicts.

Electoral assistance

77. In the past year, the United Nations has provided technical assistance in such fields as electoral systems, election organization and budget preparation, boundary definition, civic and voter education, informatics, logistics, procurement of election materials (such as ballots, staining ink, ballot envelopes, ballot boxes, etc.), election law and training election administrators. Since 1992, electoral assistance has been provided in response to 35 requests, including those received before 1992.

78. In field operations where the United Nations has provided an umbrella framework for the coordination of diverse international observers, cooperation has often been exemplary. In Malawi, for example, coordination with OAU and other organizations was essential for effective observation coverage of the elections. Electoral assistance in Malawi included support for over 250 international observers, including those from OAU, as well as coordination of technical assistance provided by the United Nations, the European Union, the Commonwealth and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

79. The United Nations undertook a major role in coordinating the international observation of South Africa's first general elections in April 1994. It deployed 2,120 observers and coordinated the observation of the elections and deployment of 102 OAU observers who participated in the final polling phase of the elections. In Mozambique, 21 OAU observers worked in close cooperation with the United Nations during the final polling phase of the electoral process.

80. The Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs co-sponsored a colloquium with the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the African-American Institute, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and the National Democratic Institute at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in November 1994. The objective of the colloquium was to contribute to the democratization process in Africa by the strengthening of electoral institutions. Participants included representatives of OAU, as well as election administrators and representatives of civil society directly involved in the electoral process in 31 African countries.

B. International Civil Aviation Organization

81. OAU continues to be invited to the meetings of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) within its sphere of interest, including sessions of the ICAO Assembly. ICAO has provided information, particularly on the implementation of ICAO regional air navigation plans by African countries, for the study of air transport in Africa being undertaken by Egypt, which was endorsed by the Council of Ministers of OAU at its fifty-eighth session, held at Cairo in 1993.

82. ICAO continued to maintain a close and continuous working relationship with the African Civil Aviation Commission and provided the Commission with expert advice and secretariat assistance upon request. Documents and studies of interest to the Africa region are provided to OAU on a regular basis to allow it to maintain basic documentation on civil aviation matters.

C. Universal Postal Union

83. Cooperation between the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and OAU continues in the form of activities, mainly in the area of technical assistance, carried out jointly by UPU and the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), a specialized agency of OAU. Under the cooperation agreement concluded in that regard, UPU and PAPU coordinate their programmes and carry out joint technical assistance activities, co-financed by the parties concerned. During the period from July 1994 to March 1995, two joint projects/seminars were carried out in English-speaking African countries, on methods of market studies (Nairobi, July/August 1994) and on management methods and organization (Nairobi, November/December 1994).

84. In addition, UPU has provided substantial technical assistance to States members of PAPU for the following activities, funded from UPU resources and carried out within the framework of UNDP projects: consultant missions involving operational activities, studies and the organization of services; individual and group training fellowships; and the provision of postal equipment. It has participated actively in the work of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, inter alia, in efforts to find financing for proposed postal projects.

85. UPU is helping to implement the 1993-1996 programme of PAPU, in particular through group training activities. It is also continuing to cooperate with OAU and PAPU to achieve the objectives set in the Abuja Treaty and spelt out, as far as the postal sector is concerned, in the protocol on transport and communication. The presence in the field of three regional advisers from UPU has provided continuing support for the postal administrations in Arabic-English-, French-, Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking African countries.

D. World Meteorological Organization

86. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) continues to accord high priority to OAU member States, particularly to sub-Saharan countries, in its technical assistance activities. In 1995, the three continuing technical

cooperation programmes under implementation in Africa are: African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development; programme for the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS); and a drought monitoring programme for eastern and southern Africa.

87. Within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, WMO continues to participate in the Inter-Agency Working Group. WMO is also collaborating closely with OAU and ECA member countries in the assessment and development of coordinated strategies related to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Convention to Combat Desertification, with emphasis on the roles of the national meteorological and hydrological services. In addition, WMO, in cooperation with ECA, organized a conference on water policy and assessment, management and development in Africa.

88. WMO is working in close cooperation with African regional economic groupings in the development and implementation of regional common programmes and strategies. A regional meteorological programme for the Economic Community of Western African States is under negotiation with development partners. Furthermore, WMO continues to provide support to the national meteorological and hydrological services, regional meteorological training centres and regional specialized meteorological centres of African countries through the various scientific and technical programmes of WMO.